

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /076 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:PBRUSSELL:AF/S:JDAVIDOW;DH  
APPROVED BY AF - WEDMONDSON  
AF/S:DKEOGH  
UN/A:AHOLLOWAY

-----060459 252253Z /70

O 252208Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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LAGOS FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, UK, PDEV

SUBJECT: AUGUST 25 PRESS BRIEFING - SUMMARY OF AFRICAN  
TOPICS

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PORTION OF AFTERNOON PRESS  
BRIEFING AUGUST 15 COVERING OWEN-YOUNG TRIP.
2. LES KINSOLVING ASKED IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS ENUNCIATING  
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U.S. POLICY WHEN HE COMMENTED THAT THE U.S. IS UNCONCERNED  
WITH THE SPREAD OF COMMUNISM IN AFRICA. TRATTNER REPLIED  
THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE SPEECH AND THEREFORE COULD  
NOT COMMENT ON THE STATEMENT. KINSOLVING CONTINUED TO  
PRESS AND IMPLIED THAT THE DEPT WAS TRYING TO AVOID  
ANOTHER ANDY YOUNG "EMBARRASSMENT" BY DODGING THE QUESTION.  
TRATTNER NOTED THAT HE HIMSELF HAD NOT SEEN THE SPEECH

AND THEREFORE COULD NOT CONFIRM THE STATEMENT BUT HE THOUGHT THAT SOMEONE IN THE DEPT PROBABLY KNEW THE DETAILS OF THE STATEMENT.

3. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE DETAILS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIA PLAN -- WHETHER PRESS REPORTS WERE ACCURATE OR COMPLETE. HE REPLIED THAT THE PROPOSALS WOULD BE MADE PUBLIC AFTER DISCUSSION WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND THAT NO COMMENT WOULD BE GIVEN UNTIL THAT TIME.

HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT SOME OF THE REPORTS ON THE PROPOSAL WERE INEXACT OR INACCURATE TO SOME DEGREE.

4. WHEN ASKED IF ANDY YOUNG WAS GOING TO RHODESIA, SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT WAS THE PLAN BUT NO ITINERARY HAD BEEN SET UP BEYOND THE LUSAKA MEETINGS THIS WEEKEND. KINSOLVING ASKED IF YOUNG HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT. SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW. WHEN KINSOLVING ASKED IF THE U.S. WOULD BE CONCERNED IF IAN SMITH INDICATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT YOUNG TO COME, SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT THE U.S. WOULD REGRET THAT WE WERE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE PROPOSAL TO SMITH PERSONALLY IF THAT WERE THE CASE.

5. SPOKESMAN WAS ASKED IF YOUNG AND OWEN PLANNED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAVE RHODESIA BEFORE THE AUGUST 31 ELECTIONS. HE REPLIED THAT WE HOPE THE VISIT WILL BE CONCLUDED BY THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK - BEFORE THE ELECTIONS (SIC). WHEN ASKED IF THE PLAN WOULD BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE ELECTION, SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD.

6. COMMENT: DEPT UNDERSTANDS DIFFICULTIES USDEL HAS IN WEIGHING ALL FACTORS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRAVEL PLANS. HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL AND WOULD AVOID FURTHER CONFUSION IF WE COULD ANNOUNCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY AT FRIDAY NOON BRIEFING, AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PROJECTED ITINERARY OR, ALTERNATIVELY ISSUE SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL ACCOMPANY DR. OWEN THROUGHOUT THE AFRICA TRIP, IF THAT IS INDEED CURRENT PLAN. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** AUGUST 25 PRESS BRIEFING - SUMMARY OF AFRICAN TOPICS  
**TAGS:** PDEV, SOPN, RH, UK, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (OWEN, DAVID)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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